THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of pending applications are not published until after Government has taken a view thereon.

(c) Issues such as viability of the project, suitability of product mix, assured availability of feedstock and availability of financial resources, etc. are yet to be resolved with the State Government.

Crisis in the DMT Industry

1497. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: *Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news captioned "Severe crisis in DMT Industry" which appeared in the Indian Express of 26th February 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that two out of three Dimethyle Terephthalate (DMT) Industry have laready been closed and the third one is on the verge of closure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and how many workers have been rendered jobless;

(d) whether the huge stock of DMT has been accumulated for want of buyers;

(e) if so, the details of the stocks accumulated in each factory;

(f) how much import of PTA have been allowed after the commencement of newly DMT producing plants;

(g) what steps have been taken to dispose of the accumulated stocks of DMT and to reopen the factories which are closed;

(h) whether any representations have been received in this connection from any quarters; and

(i) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Only one DMT Plant has been closed reportedly due to market constraints. As per information obtained none of the workers has been laid off.

(d) and (e) The stock with the DMT manufacturers in January 1986 were as follows:—

Name of the Unit	Quantity tonnes (Approximate)
(i) M/s Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	10,000
(ii) M/s. Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.	6,000
(iii) M/s. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	2,000

(f) Lincences for import of PTA by the actual users for a total quantity of about 39,000 tonnes were issued.

(g) With a view to discourage imports, DMT and PTA have been shifted from OGL to limited permissible category and the import duty on DMT and PTA has been increased.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) Details include mainly low off-take by the consumers and suggested measures to improve the position. Steps have been taken to encourage the use of indigenous DMT to the maximum extent possible.

Products of E-Merck

1498. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that E-Merck manufacture either Harmone and Vitamin preparation of price decontrol Nasal props;